

District recognizes twenty-six staff at reception

THOMAS M. KENNEDY
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

On Monday, October 21, 2002 twenty-six educators from the district were recognized for their recent attainment of Professional Status within the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Professional status is awarded to teachers who have demonstrated excellence through their work and commitment to students. A teacher is eligible to receive professional status after three full years of work in the district. During this time the individual is thoroughly evaluated each year in all facets of his/her performance.

While professional status is universal in all public schools in Massachusetts, the Shrewsbury Public Schools is among a small group of districts in the state that recognize this important achievement through a formal reception. For the third consecutive year, this event was held at The Sumner House, an historical dwelling located in the center of town, next to the Town Common. Currently, the Sumner House serves as a Bed & Breakfast facility. In addition, it has meeting rooms available for business functions such as the Professional Status Reception.

A special "thank you" is extended to the district's PTO groups and the Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA), who joined the school department this year as co-sponsors of the event. Each teacher receiving professional status was individually recognized and received a small gift to commemorate the occasion. The reception was well attended as over sixty people, including building principals, assistant principals, department directors, SEA officers,



PHOTO BY BOB STEARN

Paton teachers from left to right: Pam Fox, Lisa Papazian, Colleen Miuri, principal Linda Ferguson, parents Erica Boddeh and Kelly Dupuis.

central office administrators, the entire school committee, and PTO representatives from the schools joined the honorees and their personal guests. The event included a formal recognition program, along with an opportunity for the attendees to enjoy the company of one another and sample a variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres.

The staff recognized this year along with their teaching area were:

Shrewsbury High School: **Jayne Ortiz-Spanish, Jennifer Wilson-Social Studies.**

Middle School: **Pamela Davis-Grade Eight Science, Jeffrey LaRose-Physical Education, Anne Wentzell-Grade Seven Language Arts/Social Studies.**

Beal Early Childhood Center: **Stephanie Ferguson-Kindergarten, Camille Viscomi-Grade One, Loubaina Buxamusa-Occupational Therapist.**

Coolidge School: **Cindy Erle-Grade Five, Annemarie Hurley-Grade Four, Kimberly Mantyla-Grade One, Nancy Stine-Grade Four.**

Floral Street School: **Tracy DeBlois -Music, Diane Lavery-Grade Five, Patrice McCabe-Grade Five, Debra Stanwick-Grade Three, Robert Wilson-Art.**

Parker Road Pre-School: **Heidi Marchand-Pre-School, Kristin Reali-Speech.**

Paton School: **Pamela Fox-Grade One, Colleen Maiuri-Grade Three, Lisa Papazian-Grade Three, Cheryl Stoychoff-Title One.**

Spring Street School: **Martha Kinback-Grade One, Catherine Ogren-Grade Three.**

In addition, the district recognized Mrs. **Margery Clark-Principal** Coolidge School, for her extraordinary commitment to the district as she completed three years of service.

Shrewsbury grade configuration

DEBORAH PEEPLES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Now that we have successfully opened our beautiful new high school, one might think that the process of space planning is behind us. Not so! One of the school district's goals for this year is to discuss and determine what the grade configuration will be for the fall of 2004 and beyond. As we begin to renovate the former high school building at 45 Oak Street for use as a middle school, we refocus our attention on the process of deciding which grades will be housed there. At the same time, we anticipate using some of the "middle school" space to relieve some of our elementary overcrowding and forestall the need for additional school construction.

The Council will present their recommendation to the School Committee for a vote in the spring.

Over the past few years several grade configuration models have emerged. The development of these models included consideration of enrollment figures and projected growth, the kinds of spaces needed for our instructional program, minimizing transitions for children, and how we can most efficiently use of all our school buildings. Discussions began last spring involving faculty, parents, town boards and the Coordinating Council, a group made up of parents, teachers, administrators and community members representing each of our schools.

The four models currently being considered are:

Model #1
All elementary schools – Grades 1-4
Current middle school – Grades 5-6
45 Oak Street
(former high school) – Grades 7-8

Model #2
All elementary schools – Grades 1-4
Current middle school – Grades 7-8
45 Oak Street (old high school)
– Grades 5-6

Model #3
All elementary schools – Grades 1-4
Current middle school – Grades 5-8
45 Oak Street (old high school)
– Grades 5-8

Model #4
All elementary schools – Grades 1-6
Current middle school – Grades 1-6
45 Oak Street
(former high school) – Grades 7-8

We believe that looking at issues from a variety of perspectives is helpful in reaching good decisions. The Coordinating Council has taken on the task of reviewing all the grade configuration options and gathering input from the community. This is not the first time the Coordinating Council has undertaken such an enormous assignment. This group has previously worked on such issues as the Floral Street School redistricting, the Homework Policy, and the Floral fifth grade move to the Middle School this year. Throughout the next few months they will closely study the pros and cons of the different possibilities and carefully consider all points of view. Finally, the Council will present their recommendation to the School Committee for a vote in the spring.

Shrewsbury High School senior greeters

DAN GUTEKANST
SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

When you visit the new Shrewsbury High School, one of the first friendly faces you will meet is senior citizen Bob Lancey who, along with almost twenty other Shrewsbury residents, is a volunteer "Senior Greeter." The Senior Greeter Program began this year as a way to connect Shrewsbury's senior citizens with the high school community. The high school administration and staff believes that it is

critical to build connections and relationships between generations so that, young and old, we can learn together and support one another.

Senior Greeters sit near the school's main entrance and welcome visitors to the high school, sign visitors in, provide directions, escort preschool children to the Little Colonials Preschool Program, and provide an extra set of eyes and ears for the high school staff. Two senior greeters take a three-hour shift in the morning and two others volunteer in the afternoon five days a week.

The program, which began as a partnership with the Senior Center and the Shrewsbury Friends Club, has generated much enthusiasm and interest among the seniors, parents, teachers,

Two senior greeters take a three-hour shift in the morning and two others volunteer in the afternoon five days a week.

and students. Many students are starting to connect with one of the seniors; and the seniors are beginning to build friendships with one another and members of the high school community. A couple of the greeters get a chance to see neighbors or even grandchildren while seated at their post near the main office!

Eventually, some of the senior greeters would like to help in other areas of the high school, including the school store, media center, and classrooms where there are plenty of opportunities and needs. The high school staff and students will welcome additional senior greeters and other volunteers to help at the new high school where there are ample opportunities to connect with students. If you are interested in finding out more about the Senior Greeter Program, contact Beverly Angelo at 508-841-8807.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

George DeCoteau and Bob Defino, Shrewsbury class of '55 take a break in the Shrewsbury High School teacher's lunch room.